

Victoria Water Polo Club (VWPC)
Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

Victoria Water Polo Club exists so adults can play water polo, get fit, make friends, and have a great time in the pool. Water polo is a physical, fast-moving contact sport, and our league welcomes players of all skill levels. This Code sets out what we expect from everyone so that every game is safe, fair, and fun.

2. Who This Applies To

This Code applies to all players, team captains, coaches, referees, volunteers, executive members, spectators, and guests. It covers games, practices, social events, travel to and from events, the pool deck and changeroom, and online spaces connected to the club (group chats, social media, and league forums).

3. Sportsmanship and Respect

All members agree to:

- Treat everyone with courtesy, on and off the water
- Accept referee decisions without argument, taunting, or gestures. Questions may be asked calmly at an appropriate stoppage.
- Avoid trash talk that is personal, demeaning, or discriminatory. Friendly banter is fine; if someone asks you to stop, stop.

4. Safe Play

Water polo involves contact, but it must never involve intent to injure. Players must:

- Play within the rules of the league and the referee's directions
- Never hold, push, or pull an opponent underwater, or strike, kick, scratch, or grab an opponent's face or head
- Avoid dangerous play, including excessive force, reckless challenges, and retaliation
- Keep fingernails trimmed short and remove jewellery, watches, and sharp hair accessories
- Tell the referee if you or anyone else is injured or in distress
- Immediately leave the water if you feel unwell, dizzy, or have taken a blow to the head

5. Inclusion, Harassment, and Discrimination

Victoria Water Polo Club has zero tolerance for harassment, bullying, or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, body type, or skill level. Prohibited behaviour includes:

- Slurs, offensive jokes, or demeaning comments
- Unwelcome physical contact, comments about someone's body, or sexual advances
- Intimidation, threats, or persistent unwanted contact
- Outing, shaming, or sharing private information about another member
- Deliberately excluding others from games, chats, or events

Victoria Water Polo Club (VWPC)
Code of Conduct

6. Raising a Concern

If you experience or witness behaviour that breaches this Code:

1. If it's safe, address it directly and calmly, or ask your referee to help.
2. Report it to any Executive member, in person or by email at executive@victoriawaterpolo.ca
3. Reports may be made confidentially. Retaliation against anyone who raises a concern in good faith is itself a breach of this Code.
4. If someone is in immediate danger, call emergency services first, then notify the club.

7. How Breaches Are Handled

The Executive Committee will review reports fairly, hear from the people involved, and respond in proportion to what happened.

8. Agreement

By registering with Victoria Water Polo Club, every member agrees to follow this Code of Conduct and to help create a welcoming league for everyone.